

Today's News - Monday, May 18, 2015

- Moore makes the case for why coalition air strikes should defend Syria's Palmyra: "We must not stand by and do nothing" as Isis threatens to obliterate it. "One of the ghastly ironies of the current violence is that the places where civilization started are now the world's most barbarous."
- Capps calls into question the cultural cost of the Obama Presidential Library being built "at the expense of vibrant historic parks. This would never fly in Central Park. What's so different about Chicago's South Side that its parks are worth so much less?"
- King, on a brighter note, cheers Corner's tweaked designs for the Presidio's Crissy Field that "balance subtlety and spectacle," and show "real progress toward creating spaces worthy of the setting. The question now is whether they'll survive."
- Finch flinches at "a small but vociferous gang of moaners" and "snapping terriers" criticizing London's Garden Bridge plan, which he thinks is a "fabulous idea" (vociferous comments indicate otherwise).
- It will be interesting to see how vociferous comments may be now the Atlanta Bridgescapes Competition winners have been announced.
- Stephens explains how the landmarked Four Seasons landed in the owner's crosshairs for major modifications as the proposal goes before the Landmarks Preservation Commission tomorrow.
- Lambert and Stern each offer eloquent opposition to altering the restaurant's famed interior: "I fear the alterations proposed do more than simply tweak and freshen a detail here and there." + it would "undermine the meaning of landmark preservation in America. If the commission buckles under and approves the plan, it will admit that the wishes of a wealthy developer are more important than the culture of the city."
- Wainwright elaborates on the importance of Assemble's urban venture landing on the Turner Prize shortlist: "The story of the street and the young architects succeeding where every official plan has failed has caught the art world's attention."
- Griffiths, Richardson, Alsop, Nissen, and others "react to the shock inclusion" of Assemble on the Turner shortlist: it is "a rebuke to a profession that has sold its soul."
- If further proof is needed, a new report warns that "professional bodies must find common voice and leadership or risk being irrelevant" within 10 years.
- Heathcote offers his (rather amusing) take on the Design Museum's Design of the Year category winners: "From the overhyped to the delightfully quirky, the competition always mixes a mean cocktail of the strange, the striking and the elegant" - Elemental's UC Innovation Center falls in the "elegant" category (and the "anthropomorphic 'face'" of Google's self-driving car "might cause some designers to wince").
- Jacobs parses Safdie's Habitat 67: "The story of a revolutionary work of architecture that seemed, for a moment, as if it was really going to change the world, is almost operatically sad" - until now.
- McGuirk talks about his goals as the new head of the Design Academy Eindhoven's Design Curating and Writing master's course: "there is an urgent need to train a new generation of writers and critics."
- Clerkenwell Design Week 2015 starts tomorrow, with "over 200 architectural practices, from Grimshaw to Zaha Hadid and over 60 design showrooms" (wish we could be there!).
- Eyeulfs of the 2015 Australian Interior Design Awards winners.
- One we couldn't resist: Snickers' "You Make Mistakes When You're Hungry" guerrilla marketing campaign called attention to design and construction details "rendered dysfunctional due to oxymoronic signage and absent minded structural errors" around NYC (they're a hoot - if not also a bit scary).

[Tweet](#)

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

Coalition air strikes should defend Palmyra - it belongs to the whole world: The rich heritage of Syria's cradle of civilisation is threatened by Isis. We must not stand by and do nothing: As they have to Nimrud in Iraq, and to many of Mosul's monuments, they will try to obliterate it...One of the ghastly ironies of the current violence is that the places where civilisation started are now the world's most barbarous. By Rowan Moore- Guardian (UK)

Chicago Gets the Obama Presidential Library, but at What Cultural Cost? The city's South Side needs the jobs, money, and foot traffic...But not at the expense of its vibrant historic parks...University of Chicago and the Barack Obama Foundation mean to confiscate at least 20 acres...This would never fly in Central Park. What's so different about Chicago's South Side that its parks are worth so much less? By Kriston Capps -- Frederick Law Olmsted/Calvert Vaux- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Vision for Crissy Field balances subtlety, spectacle: The emerging vision for 13 acres of parkland [in the Presidio]...show real progress toward creating spaces worthy of the setting. The question now is whether they'll survive. By John King -- James Corner Field Operations [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Stop moaning, the Garden Bridge is fabulous: ...now bringing out the worst in a small but vociferous gang of moaners, their criticisms being familiar to anyone who tries to do anything of imagination in the capital...Any inconsistency in the proposition is seized upon by the snapping terriers as evidence of malign intent, financial irresponsibility, design failure or programmatic contradiction. No generosity is offered. By Paul Finch -- Thomas Heatherwick/Heatherwick Studio; Arup- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Atlanta Bridgescapes Competition Winners Announced: "(SIN)UOSITY" at Midtown's 10th Street Bridge by Max Neiswander and Luke Kvasnicka; "Organic Canopy" at Downtown's Courtland/McGill Bridge by Roger DeWeese/Peachtree Architects [images]- ArchDaily

The Four Seasons Standoff: Proposed modifications to Philip Johnson's interior landmark to be heard May 19. To lose an interior landmark, you don't need a wrecking ball - only time and an owner's persistence. By Suzanne Stephens -- Philip Johnson; Mies van der Rohe; Annabelle Selldorf/Selldorf Architects; Belmont Freeman [images]- Architectural Record

Why Changing the Four Seasons Will Destroy a Cultural Landmark: Alterations to the Philip Johnson masterpiece should not proceed: I fear the alterations proposed...do more than simply tweak and freshen a detail here and there...The renovation of the treasures of our heritage of midcentury Modernism is one of the most urgent tasks facing us today. By Robert A.M. Stern- Wall Street Journal

Save New York's Four Seasons: If the changes are approved at a Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing...they would do more than ruin a hallmark of modern architecture. They would undermine the meaning of landmark preservation in America...If the commission buckles under and approves RFR's plan, it will admit that the wishes of a wealthy developer are more important than the culture of the city. By Phyllis Lambert -- Mies van der Rohe; Philip Johnson- New York Times

The street that might win the Turner prize: how Assemble are transforming Toxteth: It's not quite a pickled calf - but the rebirth of a troubled Toxteth community might be art. The story of the street and the young architects succeeding where every official plan has failed has caught the art world's attention. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Assemble and the Turner Prize: 'A rebuke to a profession that has sold its soul': Sean Griffiths, Vicky Richardson, Will Alsop and Pippa Nissen react to the shock inclusion of art/architecture collective on this year's Turner Prize shortlist- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Paul Morrell: Ten years to save industry professions: Former construction adviser says in Edge commission report that professional bodies must find common voice and leadership or risk being irrelevant..."Collaboration for Change" will recommend that professional institutions develop a standardised ethical code of conduct across built environment professions... - Building (UK)

Contest raises question 'What is design?' ...the Design Museum's Design of the Year...From the overhyped to the delightfully quirky, the competition always mixes a mean cocktail of the strange, the striking and the elegant..UC Innovation Center - Anacleto Angelini at Santiago's Catholic University...an elegant piece of striking sculptural concrete architecture... By Edwin Heathcote -- Elemental [images]- Financial Times (UK)

Moshe Safdie and the Revival of Habitat 67: ...the market wasn't ready for his pioneering concept - until now....What killed the idea? The story of a revolutionary work of architecture that seemed, for a moment, as if it was really going to change the world, is almost operatically sad....[it] failed to change the world. Instead, over the course of five decades, the world changed on its own. By Karrie Jacobs [images]- Architect Magazine

Justin McGuirk: "We need critics and curators" says new head of Design Academy Eindhoven writing programme...will work one day a week at the Dutch design school, where he hopes to attract talented young writers and thinkers who can help provide a new critical framework for design...new two-year master's course in Design Curating and Writing...- Dezeen

Clerkenwell Design Week 2015 preview: From a new Carl Hansen & Sons showroom to Vitra's Jean Prouvé revival collection...over 200 architectural practices, from Grimshaw to Zaha Hadid and over 60 design showrooms...annual three-day festival...will see the area come alive with events, installations, workshops and exhibitions...May 19 - 21- Telegraph (UK)

2015 Australian Interior Design Awards: Sibling received the Premier Award for Australian Interior Design as well as the Retail Design Award and Emerging Interior Design Practice Award... inaugural Award for Interior Design Impact went to BVN... -- Bates Smart; Carr Design Group; George Livissianis; John Wardle Architects/NADAAA; SJB Interiors; Whiting Architects; Smart Design Studio [images]- ArchitectureNow

Snickers Campaign Draws Attention to NYC Design Flaws: ...new guerrilla marketing campaign, highlighting practical errors in design and construction. "You Make Mistakes When You're Hungry" adorned building walls, walkways and doors that have been rendered dysfunctional due to oxymoronic signage and absent minded structural errors. [images]- PSFK.com

Architecture's New Scientific Foundations, Part 2: Architects often assume that complexity, in general, must be designed. That's a misconception, and rarely conducive to human wellbeing. By Nikos A. Salingaros - ArchNewsNow.com



Henning Larsen Architects: Moesgaard Museum: Surrounded by woods on the outskirts of Aarhus, Denmark, the new MOMU...offers a new perspective on the role of the museum as a public space. By Robert Martin [images]

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)

© 2015 ArchNewsNow.com